

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADANA 000196

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [ADANA](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 24, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 24, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

BOLGE: M/V Ulla case has been a continuous headache for Turkey for nearly six years since M/V Ulla's arrival to the port of Iskenderun in February 2000 with 2,200 tons of hazardous toxic cargo. M/V Ulla, which was not allowed to the port and which had been waiting anchored since then, sank in September 2004 in the Turkish waters as its case awaited resolution by both Spanish and Turkish governments. Reportedly, to date, 1,400 tons of waste has been removed from the shipwreck and loaded onto the Panama flagged Amorito Monsovia vessel, which had been sent by La Farge Company in Spain. However, La Farge reportedly called the vessel Amorito Monsovia back because of the slowdown in operations, and the vessel reportedly departed yesterday night upon obtaining permission from the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Two issues currently seem unresolved: Firstly, Amorito Monsovia departed before all the waste was removed. Secondly, the removal team is to find a better way to address the hardened waste problem. (This article is from 10/23 edition.)

BOLGE: Members of Adana Egitim-Sen (Teacher's Union) marched in Adana yesterday and chanted slogans to protest the case that envisages closure for the Union. Reportedly, the case will be held on October 27 in Ankara. (This article is from 10/23 edition.)

ZAMAN: A delegation of university rectors headed by Prof. Erdogan Tezic, Chairperson of YOK (Higher Education Board), came to Van on Saturday with two planes. Wife of Yucel Askin, VCU's Vice-rector, Van Deputy Governor, and VCU faculty members welcomed the delegation at the airport. Meanwhile, a 30-car convoy waiting outside the airport staged a protest against the rectors as they were leaving the airport. (Note: Cumhuriyet reported the number of cars as 15-20. According to Cumhuriyet the protestors were from AKP, but it is not specified whether they were party members or only supporters of the AKP. End Note.) The banners hung on the hoods of the cars read, "Do not interfere in how the judicial system works", "Rectors, mind your own business, and do not back the ongoing irregularities." To evade the angry crowd, the rectors had to change cars. During Tezic's visit to the Army Corps Jandarma Command in Van, a crowded group of people continued their protest. Following a 30-minute visit to the Command, Tezic paid a visit to Yucel Askin, the rector of VCU in jail. (This article is from 10/23 edition.)

ZAMAN: Dogu Perincek, national leader of the IP (Worker's Party), denied the allegations of a June 5 article published on a journal, to which he is also the chief author. Reportedly, the article accused Yucel Askin, rector of the Van Centennial University, for being a missionary of Christianity. (This article is from 10/23 edition.)

ZAMAN / SABAH / HURRIYET: Security officers are reportedly coming close to solving the case of the July 6th killing of Hikmet Fidan, former national leader of HADEP (People's Democracy Party). Six alleged former PKK members have been caught and detained in connection with the murder in Diyarbakir. The assassin is allegedly a PKK militant.

SABAH: The daily reported that Fikri Canoruc, the rector of Dicle University in Diyarbakir, is standing trial on charges of conducting irregularities in eleven separate tenders of Dicle University.

RADIKAL / HURRIYET: The dailies reported a case of a 19-years-old woman in Adana for whom it had been arranged two years ago to marry the man that raped her. The court released the perpetrator on condition that he should marry the victim. The woman claims that her husband had a habit of beating her since the start of their marriage. Moreover, the woman alleged that her husband killed her father six days ago, and threatened to kill other family members and her, as well. The family reportedly seeks protection from the state.

CUMHURİYET: According to the daily, a local TV station's program in Van called on the people to protest YOK (Higher Education Board) Chairperson Erdogan Tezic's visit to the jailed rector of Van Centennial University.

CUMHURİYET: The Security Directorate and the Governor's Office in Eskisehir heightened security measures in the province before the second hearing of the Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz trial, which will be held today. Governor's Office banned all kinds of demonstrations, street protests, press announcements, etc. The Security Directorate banned entrance into the city by outsiders.

ZAMAN: According to a report prepared by an (unspecified) intelligence agency, the terrorist organization PKK has allegedly set up "so-called" audit boards to inspect those institutions it had links with, such as DEHAP, DEHAP municipalities, and DTH (Democratic Society Movement). The report said that the organization found 90 people guilty as a result of these inspections. The paper claims that the PKK policy aims to silence opponents.

ZAMAN: Sadullah Ergun, a senior AKP administrator, said in Hatay that the group of rectors has breached the rules of the constitution by going to Van, an act that amounted to influencing and putting pressure on the judiciary.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Adana Human Rights Association elected its new board members. The members will elect the chairperson of the association in the next round.

EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Soldiers allegedly burned nearly 30 tents that belonged to villagers, who earned their livelihood through animal breeding in summertime in Siirt's Eruh district.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Two people were detained and arrested by security officers in villages of Bingol's Karlioiva district on charges that they aided and abetted the PKK.

EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: 23 inmates in a Mardin Jail have reportedly been banned from the public spaces of the prison. The inmates are barred from seeing visitors for a month, as well. These punishments reportedly came because the inmates went on a hunger strike between August 15 and September 7 to call for an end to military operations in southeastern Turkey and the "isolation" of the PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan in a prison cell.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily announced that DTH will eventually complete the process of forming a political party by means of holding a two-day meeting, which will start today. Reportedly, the national leader of the new political party will be Ahmet Turk, the former HEP (People's Labor Party) national chairperson.

BOLGE: Reportedly, 17,000 people joined a march organized by Hakkari Governor's Office to commemorate in Hakkari the 82nd anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic. Students carried a big Turkish flag and posters of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic.

EVRENSEL: A 16-year-old shepherd was seriously wounded when a mine went off as he stepped on it while grazing his flock in Sirnak's Cizre district.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

EKSPRES: Adana Governor Cahit Kirac said that much progress has been made in the Organized Agricultural Zone (OAZ) project of Adana. OAZ, which is being built next to the Haci Sabanci Organized Industrial Zone, aims to promote organic cultivation.

REID